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G. A. MEDAR, Editor.
E. W. TURNER, Cor. Editors.
J. S. LEWIS, Cor. Editors.

A NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED MEN.

As will be seen elsewhere in this issue, there has been a call issued for a National Convention of leading colored men of the country, to be held at Richmond, Va., on July, the 8th inst. We have hitherto opposed such gatherings, believing them to be gotten up by politicians in the interest of some political organization. The call, in the language of President Pledge, is "for the purpose of considering the material, educational and political interests of the colored people of the United States of America." The colored people are "becoming remarkably independent, and if this convention has been called for the purpose of "resolving" them in the interest of either of the existing corrupt political parties, we are opposed to it. But by that time both of the great political parties will have made their nominations for the presidency and vice-presidency and issued their platforms of principles upon which the impending contest is to be waged. And thus, while it cannot be expected that so large a gathering of intelligent Negroes as will probably constitute the Richmond Convention will act in "harmonious symphony," it is thought by some that the Convention will be enabled, without much trouble, to draw a distinction between the two parties. In this, we believe, the Convention will be happily disappointed. The Democratic party is hungry, and determined to catch on to the National tent if possible. It has been out in the cold shivering a long time, and will make a desperate struggle to get in; and although it may be able to poll a solid South, through the miserable bargain and sale of 1876, (be it said to the lasting disgrace of both parties,) it is aware that the Negroes hold the balance of power in the States of Connecticut, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York; hence, it will undoubtedly make a platform broad enough for every American citizen. It has seen the folly of its contracted position, as has been evidenced by the passage of a civil rights law in two States.

North Carolina will be entitled to 22 votes in the Convention, having a colored population of 632,533. For convenience and cheapness we suggest that the leaders call district conventions instead of a State convention, and that each district elect delegates according to its population. In that event the delegates would be divided as follows:

- First district—3 delegates.
- Second district—5.
- Third district—3.
- Fourth district—3.
- Fifth district—2.
- Sixth district—3.
- Seventh district—1.
- Eighth district—1.
- Ninth district—1.

As there is no organization in this State of this character, it would be well for the leading colored men of the various counties to call mass conventions and select delegates to represent their counties in the district conventions as soon as called.

NEGRO LEADERS.

The Negro leaders of North Carolina (many of them) have never been anything more than cranks in the hands of machine men, by which the masses of the colored voters have been turned to suit the "Bosses." And while North Carolina has credit for having a greater number of what is commonly known as eminent colored men than any other State, she has had less recognition in the distribution of federal patronage. This state of affairs is to be attributed to the fact, that as soon as a Negro accepts a federal position, he is understood to be the slave of his chief, and he (the Negro) like a trifling cur, cringes and wags his tail when his master speaks. If ever he had any manhood, he loses it—forgot his race—forgot that the offices held by his superiors belong to the people, and becomes a cat-paw for those who would ever own him as a political servant.

STRENGTH OF THE LIBERAL MOVE.

The State Journal, in an issue not long since, in which it attempted to prove the strength of the Liberal move, by comparing the elections since 1876, since which time the Democratic majority has been steadily reduced, signally failed in its object. Better

far that it had never made the attempt. For instance: We will take the vote of 1876, under the Republican management, and the Democrats carried the State by nearly 20,000. Under the same party, four years later, they carried it by 6,000, a gain of about 12,000 or 13,000. The vote was, in 1880, for Jarvis, (Dem.) 121,827; for Buxton, (Rep.) 115,590; majority for Jarvis, 6,237. Two years later, (1882) with the Liberal move, the vote was: for Bennett, (Dem.) 117,743; for Dockery, (Rep.) 111,295; majority for Bennett, 448. This shows a fall off on the Democratic side of 10,084 votes, and on the Republican side of only 4,235 votes. It is generally known that on off years the Republicans come nearer polling their full vote than do the Democrats; hence the difference in the fall off. But what we desire to know is—where is the Liberal vote? According to the vote of '80, we still have a reserved force of 4,295. Add to this 10,084 (?) Liberals and the Democratic party would certainly be shelved this year. These figures are presented in all candor, with the hope that they will furnish food for reflection. Who will vouch for even five thousand Liberals?

EDUCATION VS. IGNORANCE.

Since Congress have been considering the Blair educational bill, we have noticed that several of our contemporaries seem to be bent on proving that education or book learning does not have a tendency to lessen crime. The latest effort in this direction is made by the Wilmington Star, in the following manner:

"In the South Carolina penitentiary there are 310 convicts who have been to school and 251 who never went to school. This is another evidence that mere 'book learning' does not necessarily elevate character or prevent men from crime. We have before given much evidence in the same direction."

Perhaps it does not; but if this be admitted, it must also be conceded that educated rascals in some States escape justice, while the ignorant pay the full penalty of the law. In 1882 there were 462 commitments to the North Carolina penitentiary. Of these, 316 were illiterate; 45 could read; 2 had an ordinary education, and not a single one was educated. The report also shows that one in every 1134 of the illiterate population is sent to the penitentiary, and one in every 12,934 of the reading population is sent. Will some of our better informed contemporaries explain?

HON. J. E. O'HARA.

The unanimity by which this gentleman was renominated for the 49th Congress at once places him in the lead as a representative Negro, in whom his constituents at least have unbounded faith. He has, by that bulldog tenacity characteristic of "our own Ulysses," sturdily paved his way to the front, against the almost combined efforts of every shade of politicians. The Negro represents about one-seventh of the population of this country, and, holding the balance of power as he does, should demand a Cabinet portfolio of the party with which he acts most solidly. We nominate James E. O'Hara, of North Carolina.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CONTEST.

In our last issue there appeared an article editorially endorsing Senator Logan for the presidency. Had we been at our post it would not have been so. We admire Gen. Logan. We endorse in toto both his military and civil records, but our object has been all along to steer clear and to take no part in the profane encomiums heaped upon the various aspirants by their friends. And we now think that if Senator Logan should fail to get the nomination, the almost unanimous support of the colored press will be one of the most potent causes. Aside from this, we have to say, as regards President Arthur: he stands, as the Chief Executive of this Republic, the peer of any who have preceded him, and whether or not he be nominated for the presidency, the impartial chronicler of political events will record him as one of our best Presidents and the most successful leader of any party. Out of chaos and confusion he has consolidated and unified the Republican party, which is attested by the endorsement of his administration by every Republican convention thus far held. But what cares the colored man who wins the race? His only hope is to so conduct his business as to place him beyond want, and then any party will be glad to recognize him.

ALABAMA NORMAL AND THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL.

We are in receipt of the programme of the Commencement Exercises of the above school, located at Selma, for which the President, Rev. E. M. Braxley, A. M., has our thanks for an invitation to attend. We sincerely regret our inability to do so. The graduating class of 1884 consists of eleven persons. The exercises commenced on the 23d and closed on the 25th. The card is the finest we ever saw.

The Editor has been invited to and will deliver a lecture at Winston, Forsyth county, in the early part of July. He lectured there in 1880 to a large audience.

BETWEEN AND BETWEEN.

The New York Globe, justly styled the foremost Negro journal in this country, in its issue of the 17th inst., has an able and complete summary of its views and position respecting the leading issues of the day. It is opposed to "Boss" and "Machine" methods; believes in a fair vote and an honest count; favors a thorough system of civil service reform; believes in a tariff for revenue, and calls a protective tariff a rank monopoly, and charges the Republican party with protecting robbery, and the Democratic party with being too timid to champion the free trade theory. In closing it says: "It will thus be seen that upon the vital questions presented we are neither thoroughly Republican or Democratic, but about half and half. We are not hide-bound. We want the people and the country to prosper, and therefore favor such policies and party as favor the people."

"VOTE FOR THE NOMINEE."

The above injunction is now considered among the old and haggard phrases, and well it is, for it is evident that as long as that rule is in vogue, parties and their administrations will be corrupt. Tricksters and wire-pullers and "Bosses" have hitherto so manipulated affairs as to secure through their henchmen the nomination of their choice, and then forced the rank and file of their party to support the ticket. This, we are glad to know, can no longer be done.

EATING CROW.

Much stress is put upon the fact that the Democracy swallowed Horace Greeley, and that if that could be done, Republicans ought to cram down anything. This, however, is not a tangible reason for Republicans to depart from principles. There are a plenty of Democratic fools yet, and their stupidity got a respectable set-back. The very next campaign they elected their President (Tilden) on principles, though by questionable means.

MUST COME DOWN.

W. P. Williamson, Esq., who was nominated by the Republicans of the second district for presidential elector, is postmaster at Tarboro, and is therefore ineligible to the position. Whether in his eagerness for a multiplicity of positions he forgot this fact or never knew it, we are unable to say; but we do say that such blunders on the part of parties to confer all of their honors on a few men, do not have a very savory effect. Mr. Williamson has one too many rounds in the ladder, and "must come down." Which of the two morsels will he let go? The election of a President may this year, as in 1876, depend on one vote. But then we heard a Republican say the other day that it was not the intention of the Bosses to carry the State if they could help it, and the ticket nominated points in that direction. Bring out another horse!

PRESIDENTIAL FIGURING.

Without giving the reasons for such calculations, we reproduce the following as being among the latest presidential figurings, from the New York Times' standpoint early in the fight:

Blaine,	340	Sherman,	21
Arthur,	289	Gresham,	7
Edmunds,	66	Unknown,	15
Logan,	58		

Of course it is impossible to give the exact vote, but the above may be relied on as nearly correct. Another week, however, will settle it.

SELLING OUT.

The colored man whose opinions in politics do not accord with the "machine men," and who dares to express his views contrary to their wishes, is usually charged with "selling out," "a traitor to his race," &c., while the white man may, for the sake of office, change his position (not views) a dozen times without having his motives impugned. Colored men are now thinking loudly and the echo is resounding throughout the country.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY LAW DEPARTMENT.

The Commencement Exercises of the Law Department of the above school was held on the 26th. Of the fourteen graduates, three are from this State, viz: Messrs. A. B. Lind, of this city; A. A. Owen and A. T. Jackson. We regret that the programme was received too late for publication. Mr. A. R. Bridges, of this State, is a member of the Junior Class reception committee, and Mr. Lind on award of prize. We return thanks to Messrs. Lind and Bridges for invitation to be present.

GUILFORD COUNTY DELEGATES TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS.

"We attended the said convention and that the same was in all respects harmonious!" Further on: "The report of the committee was opposed by those who advocated the 'straight out' policy and a season of uproar succeeded!" Next!

FROM TOWN—HIGHLY PLEASED.

RICHMOND, PORT BEND CO., TEXAS, May, 1884.

DEAR EDITOR:—Your sample copy of the BANNER-ENTERPRISE to hand, with which I am highly pleased. Please find inclosed cash, for which send me your noble paper according to terms of subscription.

I shall be glad to offer a few words to its columns in the future, as the "Lone Star" State is full of pickings. Please forward it at once, as I am eager for its pages. I shall introduce your paper here, and think I may find some "Lone Star" subscribers for you. Send a "ong the "Prize."

G. W. BROOKS.

From Richmond County—Loves the Paper.

LAFRANKLIN, May, 1884.

MR. EDITOR:—Nothing as a paper made me so glad as to receive a few weeks ago a copy of the BANNER-ENTERPRISE. Send it to my address at Lenoirville, N. C. I must keep posted. I love the paper.

Yours truly,
H. M. MURPHY.

THE CALL FOR A COLORED NATIONAL CONVENTION.

ATLANTA, GA., April 28, 1884.

To the Colored People of the United States: In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Colored Men's National Executive Committee, held in the City of Washington, December 19, 1883, I hereby issue a call for a colored men's National Convention to assemble in the city of Richmond, Va., July 8, 1884, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of considering the material, educational and political interests of the colored people of the United States of America.

Each State and Territory will be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five thousand colored population and fractional part thereof. And where there are not twenty-five thousand colored population in a State or Territory, that State or Territory shall be entitled to one delegate.

W. A. PLEDGER, Chairman.

G. M. ARNOLD, Secretary.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Chicago has a colored Catholic priest. The next Quadrennial Conference of the A. M. E. Z. Church will be held in Wilmington, N. C.

There are 15,834 colored teachers in the United States now, against a few hundred twenty years ago.

The Louisiana Legislature elected J. B. Eustace, to succeed B. F. Jonas as U. S. Senator, on the 20th inst.

Gen. B. F. Butler has been nominated by the Anti-Monopoly and the Greenback Conventions for the Presidency.

Bishop Hillery has been recently stripped of his official robe by the A. M. E. Z. Conference, in session in the city of New York.

Robert Shaw Wilkinson, a young colored man of Beaufort, S. C., has been appointed to a cadetship at West Point. He is only 19 years old.

The largest collection ever taken up in a colored congregation—\$1,020—was made by Rev. Alexander's First Baptist church, West Washington, last Sunday.

Tarboro, N. C., has two students in the law department of Howard University. Messrs. J. H. Camper and Aaron R. Bridges. Mr. Calmer will graduate in June.

The Governor has ordered the holding of two special terms of the Superior Court; one of Rowan, June 9th, by Judge Gilmer; the other of Randolph, June 14th, by Judge Graves.

A call has been issued for a convention of the Masonic fraternity, to convene at Savannah, Ga., on the 26th of December next, for the purpose of consolidating the Order in that State.

The greatest amount on hand in the Freedman's Saving Bank at any one time was \$56,000,000, belonging to colored people. Certainly they were not thriftless nor altogether spendthrifts.

A fire at New Orleans, La., on the 20th inst., destroyed 573 hogheads of sugar, 3,482 barrels of molasses, cotton seed oil, &c. The loss is estimated at \$150,000, which is covered by insurance.

The death of the late John F. Slater is received with much regret by the colored people throughout the country. He leaves an estate valued at ten million dollars, and yet he was a great philanthropist.

It looks as though two of the Methodist denominations will effect a union. The General Conference of the A. M. E., at Baltimore, appointed a committee of ten, and informed the Quadrennial Conference at New York of its action, which was heartily received and a committee appointed to consult.

In Central Africa, instead of tea, coffee and whiskey, the natives use a stimulant called kola. This kola is a nut with a kernel about two inches in length. When the kernel is perfectly dry it is chewed as if it were tobacco. It sustains the system under great hardships, and even supplies the place of food. Kola sells at various prices, from twenty cents a pound to a dollar for a single nut. The Africans believe that this stimulant is almost a cure-all and we may expect to see the patent medicine men introduce it in various shapes into Europe and America.

ISAIAH G. HAYES,

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Raleigh, N. C.

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A MARVELOUS STORY

FROM THE SON: "28 Cedar St., New York City." "Gentlemen: My father suffers of Gout, &c. He has been a great sufferer from Gout, &c. and the inclosed letter will tell you what a marvelous effect

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

has had in his case. I think his blood must have contained the humor for at least ten years; but it did not show, except in the form of a scrofulous sore on the wrist, until about five years ago. From a few spots which appeared at that time, it gradually spread so as to cover the entire body. I saw you were very severely afflicted, and an object of pity, when he began using your medicine. Now, there are few men of his age who enjoy as good health as he has. I could easily name any persons who would testify to the facts in his case. Yours truly, "W. S. WATKINS."

FROM THE FATHER: "It is both a duty for me to state to you the benefit I have derived from the use of

Ayer's Sarsaparilla

Six months ago I fell completely prostrated with a terrible humor and scrofulous sore. The humor caused an incessant and intolerable itching, and the skin cracked so as to cause the blood to flow in many places whenever I moved. My sufferings were great, and my life a burden. I commenced the use of the Sarsaparilla in April last, and have used it regularly since that time. My condition began to improve at once. The sore has all healed, and I feel perfectly well in every respect—being now able to do a good day's work, although 73 years of age. Many inquirers who have wrought such a cure in my case, and I tell them, as I have here tried to tell you, AYER'S SARSAPARILLA. Glover, Vt., Oct. 21, 1882. Yours gratefully, HIRSH PHILLIPS."

AYER'S SARSAPARILLA cures Scrofula and all Scrofulous Complaints, Erysipelas, Eczema, Ringworm, Boils, Sores, Rashes, Tumors, and Eruptions of the Skin. It clears the blood of all impurities, aids digestion, stimulates the action of the bowels, and thus restores vitality and strengthens the whole system.

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McGuffey's Readers.

The Board of Education has adopted McGuffey's Readers, as will be seen from their notice in today's paper. After experimenting with two other series, they came back to McGuffey's with the conviction that in all essentials of a Reader, they have never been surpassed, and never will be. In this they are sustained by the action of Richmond, Petersburg, Lynchburg, and the largest cities in the United States. Charlottesville, Lexington and Staunton, the great centres of High Education in Virginia, have adopted McGuffey. Along the Midland and Western Railroad, county after county has come back to McGuffey with a unanimity that would be incomprehensible did we not know the book.—Durham Register.

"This action is based in every instance on the recommendation of the professional teachers of each county, without consultation with those of any other. Side by side with McGuffey's Readers, Harvey's Grammar, Ray's Arithmetics and the Electric History of the United States have been almost universally adopted in this State."—Fredericksburg News.

These books have been adopted and are now in use in the schools of Charlotte and Salisbury.

The McGuffey series is easy of acceptability, yet progressive, and when once adopted is considered almost indispensible necessary. We give the prices below and trust that educators and parents will avail themselves of the opportunity of supplying their schools and families with good books at reasonable prices.

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